

Dear Josh:

Thank you for the ~~kind~~ note about oyster genetics. Much more important than snails to my non-Gallic tastes. I hope something can be done to maintain the effort.

On the words from afar:

I looked at the literature I have, and I am not able to find the explicit source of the notion that we should send $1/137$ or such a number. It is rather a straightforward notion. I find it a little redundant: the nature of the signal is a more relevant measure of the sender's accomplishments than any citations from precision physics. I doubt the utility of the dimensionless numbers.

As to safety by concealment, you know the riposte. If anybody is able to come and eat us across the depths of space, he is pretty sure as a much easier technical feat / to sense our presence, no matter how hard we hide. Such beings assumed, I hold with Fred Hoyle: our best chance is to appear as intelligent as we can, and hope for sympathy.

with best wishes

Phil
Phil Morrison

21 March 1970 happy equinox

Fine structure constant

LINCOS

Extraterrestrial Intelligence - SETI CETI